



South Dakota Department of the Military
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



STATE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER'S WELCOMED HOME



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Coacher-Goetsch American Legion Post 18 in Mitchell hosted the homecoming celebration for South Dakota American Legion State Commander Hugh Holmes on Saturday, July 22, 2017, in Mitchell.

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen represented the Department at the Homecoming.

Past Department Commander Charemon Dunham presented Commander Holmes with the State Commander Banner.

PURPLE HEART RUN TRAVELS THROUGH SOUTH DAKOTA



Military Order of the Purple Heart Members from the Sioux Falls area.

Purple Heart Run made numerous stops in South Dakota last week as part of a national tour.

For the past four years the Purple Heart Truck has been making its way around the country to bring awareness to disabled veterans and the costs of war.

This year's theme/focus for the run was "mobility is freedom." This year's trip started in Washington D.C. and will end in mid-August, in Texas. The main sponsors for this event are Wounded Warrior Family Support and The Military Order of the Purple Heart.

At the end of the road trip a disabled veteran will be selected to receive a 2017 Ford F-150 Raptor truck that's adapted to suit veterans who are paralyzed or have lost their legs and/or arms. Organizers say their belief is that if a veteran is given the right vehicle for mobility they will be able to live a full and productive life.

During the ceremonies held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, Governor Daugaard's proclamation declaring July 18-20 as Purple Heart Run Days in South Dakota was read.

Medal of Honor Recipient Michael J. Fitz-

maurice was on hand for the ceremony in Sioux Falls and visited with many veterans.



Fitzmaurice checks out the Purple Truck!

OUTREACH EVENTS HELD IN CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA

Michael Lueck, veterans service officer for Beadle and Sanborn Counties was part of the team that was on hand for veterans attending the VA Town Hall in Huron last week. Lueck estimates they had about 70 veterans go through their booth.

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen was on hand to assist and to reach out to veterans.

SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen and State Veterans Service Officer Erin Bultje hosted a booth at the



Rosbud Sioux Tribe Stand Down held in Rosebud Tuesday of this week.

Bultje also took time to help the staff of the Rosebud



Sioux Tribal

Veterans Service Office serve lunch to the veterans.

Bultje and Bowen also took time out of their day to tour the Sicangu Akicita Owicaha Veterans Cemetery.



SD GUARD ARTILLERY UNIT TRAINS IN ROMANIA DURING SABER GUARDIAN

Soldiers of South Dakota Army National Guard's 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion trained alongside U.S. and allied nation forces during the exercise Saber Guardian 17 in Romania, July 2-18.

About 110 soldiers from the battalion trained on their operational capabilities, battlefield integration and fire support coordination with U.S. Army, National Guard and Romanian forces.

SG17, a U.S. Army Europe-led, multinational exercise, takes place in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania with approximately 25,000 service members from 22 partner nations. The exercise highlights participant deterrence capabilities, specifically the ability to mass forces at any given time anywhere in Europe.

While participating in SG17, Alpha Battery, 1-147th FA was assigned under the 5-113th Field Artillery Battalion and 1st Cavalry Division Artillery of Fort Hood, Texas. The battery operates the M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System, which can fire 12 surface-to-surface rockets in fewer than 60 seconds.



The exercise gave the units an idea in many ways what it's like to deploy and fight in a foreign country. Going overseas brings new obstacles for units, such as learning new terrain and increased planning and preparation compared to utilizing the same training area year after year.

The 1st Cav. DIVARTY provides fire support coordination and mission command for the training and readiness of field artillery units participating in SG17.

Training alongside allied nations has also created opportunities the units wouldn't normally have. Part of this training exercise



was for NATO and U.S. forces to work together and build relationships. For the live-fire missions to be successful, the unit needed support from numerous sections. Each component went through their own obstacles to ensure the fire missions were a success.

Fire direction crews had a few hurdles of their own to jump through during this year's annual training.



200TH DEPLOYS TO MIDDLE EAST

Fifteen soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 200th Engineer Company were honored during a deployment ceremony in Pierre, July 22. Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters assembled at the Riggs High School auditorium to say farewell to the soldiers who will depart for a nine-month deployment to the Middle East.

The soldiers will serve as a bridge training team and provide training and assistance to coalition forces on military bridge systems throughout the region. As a multi-role bridge unit, the 200th's mission is to assemble, maintain, repair and replace all standard U.S. Army bridge systems.

Other ceremony speakers wishing the soldiers well included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, Pierre Mayor Steve Harding, and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

"We gather to thank you, the members of the 200th, for answering the difficult call to leave the comfort of your homes and the embraces of your families to serve your country," said Daugaard. "To all of those deploying and to everyone else in their lives, thank you for your sacrifices, your patriotism and your hard work. Thank you for what you are doing for us."

"As adjutant general, I couldn't be prouder of this unit, of this team, as you get ready to go out the door," said Reisch. "You've executed a very rigorous training schedule from the start - learning how to assemble a bridge we don't even have in our inventory. "But that is the versatility of this team and of the National Guard," continued Reisch. "If you give them a mission, they are going to execute it to the best of their ability. I'm very confident you are going to be successful on this deployment."

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, this will be the third mobilization for the Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge-based unit, which deployed forces to Iraq in 2003-2004 and Afghanistan in 2011-2012.

The team members will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

Sen. Rounds had some final words for the soldiers to remember as they depart for their mission abroad. "You are the best of the best," said Rounds. "We wish you Godspeed. We want you to get your mission done. We want you to honor the commitment that every member of the armed forces of America has ever made, and then we want you to safely return back here to this nation, to this state, and to this community who waits for your return."



VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

Three highway patrol vehicles with officers piling out of them may not be a welcome sight for most, but it was a saving grace last Wednesday morning at the Bill and Gladys Janssen residence.

The Janssen's lost their firewood supply that is used to heat their house during the cold winter months, in an outdoor accidental fire.

Hamlin County Veteran's Service Officer David Schaefer learned of this tragedy during one of his visits with Bill, who is a World War II Veteran. Schaefer being a part of a network of veterans helping veterans, dove in and organized a group to split a new supply of firewood.

His first find was Justin Ries, owner of Kelly's Tree Service. Ries delivered large logs and tree limbs that could be cut down to size, split and stacked for drying.

His second find was a group of Highway Patrolmen, who are also veterans. HP Troopers Jerry Kastein, Ashley Granville and Cory Nordquist split the wood down to firewood.

And his last find was the Castlewood American Legion Post and Auxiliary who came out and grilled burgers and provided lunch for the crew.

Albert Schweitzer once said, "Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man's help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you

don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too."

Thanks to this wonderful team for all they did for one of our great World War II Heroes!!!!!!



FREEDOM RIDE POKER RUN AUGUST 6, 2017

BY VETS...FOR VETS

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS • BATTLE MOUNTAIN POST 71 • HOT SPRINGS, SD

**A BEAUTIFUL RIDE THROUGH
THE BLACK HILLS OF
SOUTH DAKOTA...
HOT SPRINGS - KEYSTONE
HILL CITY - CUSTER**

8:30 - 10:00 am: Registration

**\$15 first hand - \$5 each add'l hand
(Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and Worse
+ Many Other Prizes)**

10:00 am: Ride Starts

State Veterans Home - 2500 Minnekahta Ave., Hot Springs, SD



**5:00 pm: Free Will Donation Dinner
Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary**



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

**NORTH CENTRAL PARALYZED VETERANS: PISTOL SHOOT
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH, 9A.M.**

The entry fee for this event is \$75, which includes practice time and ammunition for competition. Please send your registration and payment to:

North Central Chapter
209 N Garfield Ave Sioux
Falls, SD 57104

*This form may be
emailed to:
LisaC@ncpva.org*

SHOOTING OPTIONS	
Entry Fee (Pistol): \$75	\$ _____
ADDITIONAL OPTIONS	
Tax-deductible donation to North Central PVA Shooting Sports	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____
 Branch of Service: USA USMC USAF USN USCG N/A
 Voting member of Paralyzed Veterans? Yes No
 Paralyzed Veterans Chapter: _____

Have you ever competed in a Paralyzed Veterans shooting event?
 Yes No

*Email Andy MacDonald at AndyM@pva.org with information on the caliber firearm you plan on utilizing **no later than August 25, 2017.***

In case of emergency, please contact:
 Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: (____) _____

**Badlands Gun Range
1600 W Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

Competition:

- Slow fire at the 15-yard line, 5 shots in 10 minutes
- Quick fire at the 15-yard line, 5 shots in 30 seconds
- Quick fire at the 15-yard line, 5 shots in 30 seconds
- Slow fire at the 25-yard line, 10 shots in 10 minutes
- Quick fire at the 25-yard line, 5 shots in 30 seconds
- Quick fire at the 25-yard line, 5 shots in 30 seconds

MANDATORY safety briefing at 8:50 a.m., competition will start at 9 a.m. sharp.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**



NORTH CENTRAL PARALYZED VETERANS TRAPSHOOT

Hosted by North Central Paralyzed Veterans of America • September 8-10, 2017

Crooks Gun Club • Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott

Competition open to all shooters, able-bodied or with a disability

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

12 p.m.	Transportation to the gun club
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	No-host practice, lunch, and registration at gun club
5 p.m.	Welcome reception at gun club

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

Before Competition	MANDATORY Safety Clinic for all novice shooters
9:15 a.m.	50-Pair Doubles
Noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	100 Handicap

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

9:15 a.m.	100 Singles
After competition	Awards Banquet (Crook Gun Club)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

7 a.m.	Doug Brown Pheasant Hunt
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EVENT AWARDS

- High overall on 300 targets
- John Rogers Award (given to the top shooter with SCI/D) on 300 targets

Class Awards:

- First and second place in short-, mid-, and long-yardage
- First and second place in Singles, AA-D classes: gift cards & special awards
- First and second place in Doubles, AA-D classes: gift cards & special awards

Pistol Shoot Awards:

- First-Place Champion
- First Runner-Up

Chapter Team Awards:

A chapter team must consist of at least three shooters having SCI/D, and a minimum of two teams must be competing for awards to be considered.

- Top Team and Runner-Up Team award based on all 300 targets/shooter

Note: The Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter may have special events and fun shoots for the weekend. Please see the staff and postings at Crooks Gun Club for any information on special events and other options.

Upcoming Events

Aug 5—American Legion State Auxiliary President Elvira Rose Homecoming—Post 17—1:00 pm (CT)
 Aug 6—Freedom Ride Poker Run—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—Hot Springs—8:30 am (MT)
 Aug 10—Veterans Town Hall Meeting—Senior Center—Aberdeen—6:00 pm (CT)
 Aug 10-13—The Vietnam Wall—I-90 Information Center—Chamberlain
 Aug 14-17—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Pierre—Ramkota
 Aug 16—Sioux Falls VA Show and Shine—VA Parking Lot—5:30 pm (CT)
 Aug 31—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
 Sept 2—DAV and 727th 13th Annual Poker Run—Brookings
 Sept 8 NCPVA Pistol Shoot—Badlands Gun Range (1600 W. Russell Street—Sioux Falls)
 Sept 8-10—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls
 Sept 11—Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt (Top Gun Hunting Ranch—Howard)
 Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit
 Sept 22 Homeless Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
 Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day
 Sept 25-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls
 Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt
 Sept 28—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls
 Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
 Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—
 Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)
 Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners
 Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
 Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
 Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown

2018

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre
 Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
 Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
 Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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